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REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

FR. FRANZ. *Mythologische Studien II.* Der Weihefrühling und das Königsopfer. 8vo, pp. 65. Wien, 1888.

The chief part of this interesting but uncritical essay is devoted to showing that kings were formerly made a sacrifice of, for the good of their people. His taste leads him to think this one of the most sublime aspects of the life of ancient races. The legends of Vikings, Britons, Langobards, *etc.*, are put under contribution, but more especially Greek mythology and history. The Trojan war is only the Trojan festival of sacrifice, recurring within spaces of ten years; and from it the Greek games were later developed. In this and similar conclusions, Dr. Franz seems to mount to such airy heights that the average reason would hardly follow him. In the punishment of the Scythian prince, Skyles, and the assassination of Philip of Macedon, are found examples of this self-sacrifice of kings! The satyrs in the train of Dryas are also explained as youths devoted to death-sacrifice. The diligence and completeness with which these myths are collected is, however, very praiseworthy, and the material gathered into the book is both attractive and entertaining.—HAEBERLIN, in *Woch. f. klass. Philol.*, 1889, No. 19.

ORIENTAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

V. A. SMITH. *The Coinage of the Early or Imperial Gupta Dynasty of Northern India*, 1889.

This work by the compiler of the valuable index to the twenty volumes of *Reports of the Archæological Survey of India* is reprinted from the *Journal* of the Royal Asiatic Society. It may be called the most important contribution to Indian numismatics since Professor Percy Gardner's *British Museum Catalogue of the Coins of the Greek and Scythic Kings of Bactria and India* (1886). In form it is an expansion of a paper on the gold coins of the Guptas which appeared in 1884 in the *Journal* of the Bengal Society. But Mr. Smith has now included the silver and copper coinage; and he has been able to revise his former opinions by an examination of the examples in the British Museum, in the Bodleian, and in Sir Alexander Cunningham's unrivalled private collection. He has also had the advantage of consulting the proof sheets of Mr. Fleet's forthcoming great work on the Gupta inscriptions, which definitely determines the dates of the several reigns. So far as we know, this is the first serious examination that has been made of the early Indian coins in the Bodleian collection, for Mr.